



Oyozi!

February 2006

**YOUR FREE
Axbridge T. C.
Newsletter
INFORMS**

Town Council brings businesses together

The Town Council's Axbridge Promotion Advisory Committee hosted a gathering of local business women and men in the Town Hall on February 13th..

The purpose was to consider forming an association of Axbridge businesses, similar to a Chamber of Commerce. This would be entirely independent of the Town Council. More than 30 interested business people attended and a small steering group was set up, to draw up a programme of action.

The Steering Committee for the venture is **Chairman** - Robert Tallack(Compton House); **Secretary** - Carole Hamblin (Rhema Developments); **Treasurer** - Les Stanley (Pace UK Ltd). **Committee Members** are Pat Filer (Parsonage Guest House); Liz Scott (Moorlands Farm); Simon Booth (Kiddimoto).

The group's aims are to be a forum for local businesses, to meet and network, and to be active and involved in local issues,

The new Steering Group will make contact with all local businesses during the next few weeks, but if you operate a business, small or large, in Axbridge and would like to know more you should contact Carole Hamblin by e-mail at: rhema@onetel.net

The Council's Public Transport Policy

was criticised in some detail in a letter from a group of residents from Starrs Close and Houlgate Way. Their comments will be considered by the Highways Committee at its next meeting.

This local valuable input came after the Policy had been discussed, amended and finally agreed by Council over a period of months.

However, bearing in mind that any changes requiring serious funding from Somerset County Council (SCC) were unlikely to happen soon, councillors felt sure there would be ample time for discussion and wide consultation with all interested parties.

Parking changes in West Street

The Council had received further public comment on the SCC proposed removal of the small area of restricted parking in West Street.

This came in the form of a letter, and a petition from a number of concerned residents, who wished to retain the four overnight parking spaces.

The Mayor, Cllr Tony Wilson, pointed out that the Town Council's recent decision to support this change was the result of much debate and discussion.

The Council's role in such Highway matters is purely advisory. Somerset Council will make the final decision and there is a clear process to influence the outcome of its deliberations.

Notices had been displayed in West Street to this effect.

Six month rule

Councillors were reminded that under the Council's constitution (Standing Orders) decisions, once taken, could not be brought back to the Council within a period of 6 months. It was therefore very important that all possible information was gathered before decisions were taken and that comments from the public were brought forward to Council without delay.



Problems with rubbish?

If you have any problems, or concerns about the cleanliness of the town, for example the recycling bins in Meadow Street car-park are full, then the Department responsible at Sedgemoor Council may be contacted directly: 0845 408 2543.

Alternatively contact the Town Clerk.

Problems with planning applications?

If you have views about planning applications, you are invited always to put them before the Town Council, which is consulted on all local applications.

However, the Town Council **DOES NOT DECIDE OR GIVE PERMISSION FOR DEVELOPMENTS**. All such permissions or refusals are decided by Sedgemoor District Council (SDC). SDC has published general advice about commenting on Planning Applications, which may prove helpful. Find a copy of this guidance on-line as follows:

- Town Council's website www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk
- Sedgemoor DC's website www.sedgemoor.gov.uk

A paper copy of this document is also available upon request from Sedgemoor Council - 0845 408 2545 or from Axbridge Town Clerk - 07884 264033

BMX on the Furlong

Following on from discussions with PCSO Julie Lewis and some Axbridge youngsters, plans are going ahead to create a BMX track at the south side of the Furlong. The track will be very largely created by the young people themselves.

This will be subject to adequate insurance cover being available to the Town Council as responsible body.

Axbridge Fun Day To avoid World Cup football, this year's Fun Day will be on Saturday 15th July.

Improved pictures The Town Trust, with financial help from the Council, has recently restored and re-hung a number of pictures of local dignitaries in the Council Chamber. It is hoped to produce a small guide, or explanatory sheet, for visitors.

Water at the allotments. The National Trust has proposed running a new water pipe through the allotment area and up onto Shute Shelve. The Town Council agreed to help with the cost in exchange for a water supply being made available for allotment holders.

Play equipment on the Furlong The broken "tractor slide" in the children's play area is to be replaced. Cllr. Mrs Ham was asked to apply, on the Council's behalf, for a sum of money from the Sedgemoor Amenity Grant Fund to cover the cost and to replace the safety matting.

Areas for sweeping? If you can identify neglected areas of the town that need a good sweeping please make contact with the Clerk or any Town Councillor.

New bus stops and shelters The new shelter in Houlgate Way has been erected opposite the Surgery. However, because of some confusion on the part of Somerset County Council, the other proposal to put two new stops in Old Church Road/ Meadow Street has been postponed.

Further discussions will take place.

Footpaths map The Council will apply shortly for permission to erect a display board on the wall of the Co-op shop beside the Museum. This will show all the Public Rights of Way in the Parish and the surrounding District.

Walk guides are to be published by mid-April..

Parish Plan The Parish Plan Steering Group expect the Final Draft of the Parish Plan to be available by the end of April.

Weight limit on Cheddar Road In order to discourage large "lost" lorries from entering the Square from Cheddar Road, SCC is to be asked to put a weight restriction of 7.5t. on the length of Cheddar and Jubilee Roads and St. Mary's Street. Of course, delivery lorries and those requiring access would still be able to enter.

A Quality Parish Council! Axbridge Town Council is now working towards Quality Parish Council status. This will include such improvements as more training for the Town Clerk, encouraging more candidates to stand for the next Town Council elections and keeping the electors well-informed.

Lost Property Cllr Trotman has organised a central "Lost Property" box, in the LocalPlus/Co-op shop, where any items found in the town will be held briefly. If you've lost something it just may be there!

Jim Ramadan Councillors gave a vote of thanks to Jim Ramadan, who has been overseeing the letting and general management of the Jack Todd Changing Rooms in the Furlong, on a voluntary basis, since they were opened last year.

A new manager will be appointed.

PUBLIC SERVICE NOTICE

HAVE YOU GOT 15 MINUTES TO SPARE EACH MONTH?

SO THAT EVERYONE KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENING, OR WHAT'S PLANNED, WE SHOULD LIKE "OYEZ" TO BE READ IN EVERY HOUSE IN AXBRIDGE.

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP TOWN COUNCILLORS DELIVER A MONTHLY COPY OF "OYEZ" TO EVERY HOUSE IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD? (20/30 COPIES)

Please phone the Editor and make your offer - Cllr. Paul Passey 733373

Dependent on the number of volunteers let's see how much of Axbridge we can cover!!

NEXT MONTH'S COPY WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE USUAL OUTLETS, IF YOU DO NOT GET A "DELIVERED" COPY.

Another view! Come along and tell us what you think.

Your attendance at Town Council meetings could improve the level of service that the council gives to the community.

You may speak for up to 3 minutes on any town-related matter, or agenda item. Parishioners' views are always welcome.

Who knows Axbridge better than you?

Date of next meeting Monday 20th March 2006 at 7.30 p.m. in the Town Hall.

This newsletter and other local information can be found on the Town Council's website

www.axbridge-tc.gov.uk

Any elector, who wants information, or who has any issue to put before the Council should contact:

Town Clerk, Mrs Vicky Brice.

Telephone number: 07884 264033